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NJMC CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY BY GIVING MEADOWLANDS TOWNS THE GIFT OF TREES

Lyndhurst, NJ - National Arbor Day is Friday, April 25th. In celebration of this important day, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is proud to offer trees to Meadowlands Municipalities. This year's selection is the Tulip Tree. Each town will receive 13 trees to plant throughout their municipality.

"This is the 6th year the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission has sponsored the Community Tree Planting program and in that time, 1,000 trees have been purchased for the towns in the Meadowlands District" said Joseph Doria, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and Chairman of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. "This program is a symbol of our commitment to our municipalities to help them add to their green spaces, creating a better quality of life for the residents of the Meadowlands."

The Tulip Tree was chosen by the NJMC this year because it is a fast-growing shade tree. Tulip Trees can reach heights of 50 feet within 11 years. Its bright green leaves resemble tulip flowers and turn golden yellow in the fall. Greenish-yellow flowers are carried high in the tree. Tulip Trees are adaptable and very resilient toward pests and tree diseases.

"Trees are extremely beneficial to Meadowlands Communities," said NJMC Commissioner Arlene Walther. "Trees improve air quality, produce oxygen, prevent soil erosion, and provide food and shelter for wildlife in the area. The trees also provide shade for people and beautify areas where they grow."

Tulip Trees provide food in many forms for many animals. Bees and hummingbirds gather nectar from the flowers. The seeds are consumed by birds, squirrels, and rabbits. The Tulip Tree belongs to the Magnoliaceae family and is known as the King of Magnolias. The name Tulip Tree is probably derived from the tulip-like flowers that grow high up in these trees. The petals of the flowers are yellow-green while the corolla has a vivid orange shade. The Tulip tree blooms from late spring to early summer.

Over the last 6 years, the NJMC has spent more than \$103,000 to purchase trees in the Meadowlands District for the Community Tree Planting Program.